




***Fighting Intensifies Across East Ukraine Ahead Of Peace Talks***


New recruits for a volunteer militia, the St. Mary's Battalion, drill with imaginary rifles at their base in Mariupol, Ukraine. Pro-Russian rebels control territory to the north and east of this bustling port, and Russian-controlled Crimea lies to the southwest, leading many to worry that Mariupol is in the crosshairs.  
(Brendan Hoffman/The New York Times)  
Page 8



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## Parents of American woman held by IS confirm her death



Turi Whiting of Minneapolis leaves a bouquet of flowers at a "Pray for Kayla" sign in downtown Prescott, Ariz. Mueller, a 26-year-old American woman held by Islamic State militants, has been confirmed dead, her parents and the Obama administration said Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015.

(AP Photo/The Arizona Republic, Rob Schumacher)

**FELICIA FONSECA**  
 Associated Press

**PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP)** — The small Arizona town where Kayla Jean Mueller grew up began gathering in grief Tuesday upon learning that the 26-year-old aid worker who traveled the world on a quest to help others died while in the hands of Islamic State militants.

A small memorial on the courthouse plaza began to grow rapidly as word spread that Mueller's death had been confirmed.

The Islamic State group reported Friday that Muller, whose 18-month captivity had largely been kept secret in an effort to save her, had died in a recent Jordanian airstrike targeting the militants. On Tuesday, her parents and U.S. officials said they were now certain of her death, although officials said they could not confirm how she died.

"What a fine, fine woman and a tribute to Prescott,"

said 15-year resident Tina Nemeth. "It's just so sad, it really is, and everyone feels exactly the same. It's a shock it hit Prescott. We're not that big of a town." The former territorial capital of Arizona has only recently begun to recover from a devastating 2013 wildfire that claimed the lives of 19 members of an elite firefighting squad. Stickers featuring the fire crew's logo and bearing the number "19" are still fixed to vehicles all around the town of 40,000 people. The mountain town's picturesque courthouse lawn is still recognizable to some outsiders as the site of the dramatic martial-arts fight scene in the 1971 film "Billy Jack."

On Tuesday, it was filled with members of the media waiting to hear from Mueller's family, which lives about 10 minutes away at the end of a winding dirt road. Sheriff's deputies have blocked the road since Friday.

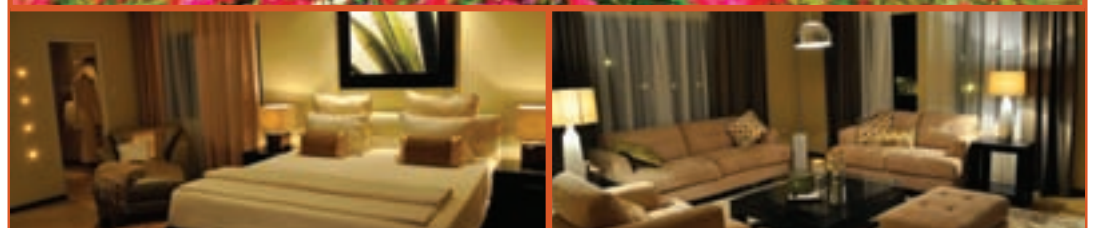
"We are heartbroken to share that we've received confirmation that Kayla Jean Mueller, has lost her life," Mueller's parents, Carl and Marsha Mueller, said in a statement released earlier. "Kayla was a compassionate and devoted hu-

manitarian. She dedicated the whole of her young life to helping those in need of freedom, justice, and peace."

President Barack Obama said Mueller, who assisted humanitarian organizations working with Syrian refu-

gees, "epitomized all that is good in our world."

"No matter how long it takes, the United States will find and bring to justice the terrorists who are responsible for Kayla's captivity and death," the president said. □

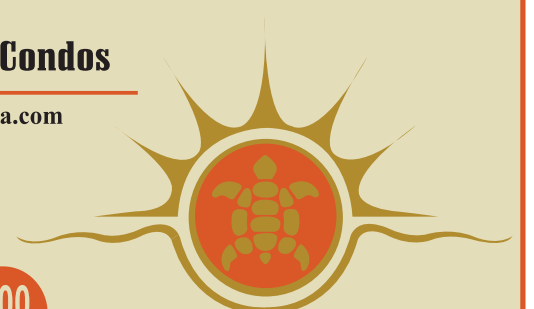


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## Northeast region digs out from latest winter storm



Rich and Kathy Melvin shovel out their car in front of their house in Somerville,, Mass., Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015. The latest snowstorm left the Boston area with another two feet of snow and forced the MBTA to suspend all rail service for the day.

(AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)

**BOB SALSBERG**  
**DENISE LAVOIE**  
**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — A relentless storm that dumped deep snow on parts of the U.S. Northeast was finally expected to wind down on Tuesday but not before bringing the Boston-area public transit system to its knees and forcing some communities to consider tossing piles of snow into the ocean to help relieve clogged streets.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker gave another day off to non-emergency state workers in the hardest hit areas and the schools remained closed for another day.

To make matters worse, forecasters said much of New England is on track to get more snow Thursday and into the Friday morn-

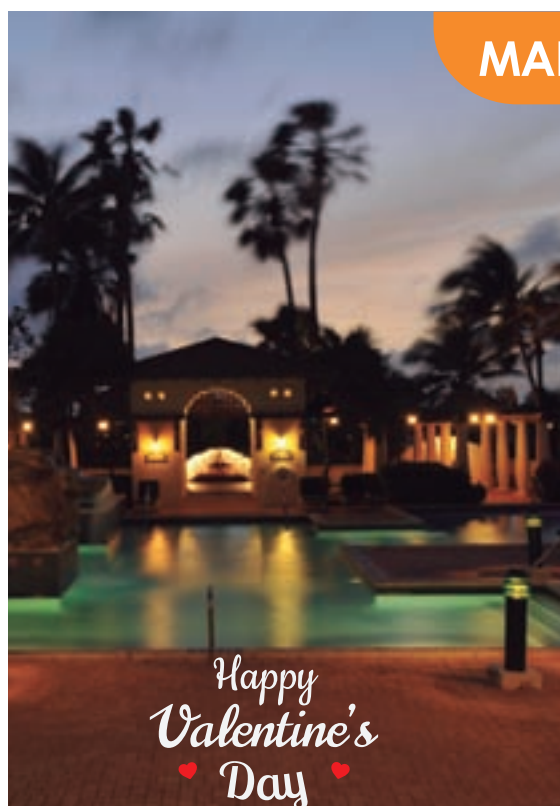
ing commute.

Boston-area subways, trolleys and commuter rail trains ground to Monday evening and were scheduled to remain idle on Tuesday. Hundreds of flights were canceled at New England airports. Officials at Boston's Logan International Airport said they hoped normal passenger service would resume by midday Tuesday.

A 60-year-old man who had just finished work at a supermarket bakery died after being struck in a parking lot by a private snow plowing truck.

Massachusetts environmental officials gave cities and towns with no place else to put accumulating snow the green light to dump some into the ocean or other bodies of water if necessary. □

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## Man charged with murder in Virginia student's death

LARRY O'DELL

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia (AP) —

The man already charged with the abduction of a University of Virginia student who was missing for weeks before her body was discovered has been indicted on a count of first-degree murder in the case, law enforcement officials said Tuesday.

Jesse Matthew Jr., 33, was indicted on the murder charge Monday, Albemarle County prosecutor Denise Lunsford said at a news conference. Matthew already was charged with abduction with intent to defile in the case. British-born Hannah Graham, 18, disappeared in September and was found dead in Albemarle County a few weeks later.

Lunsford declined to say why Matthew was not charged with the higher count of capital murder, which would have carried a possible sentence of the death penalty. The abduction and first-degree murder charges are punishable by up to life in prison. Matthew also faces two counts of reckless driving in the case.

The indictments were one sentence each and did not offer any details on the charges.

Police have said forensic evidence also links Matthew to the 2009 disappearance and death of 20-year-old Virginia Tech student Morgan Harrington, whose body also was found in the county. Lunsford said "there are no pending charges" against Matthew in the Harrington case.

"The simple fact is the case involving Hannah Graham was ready to be charged first," she said.

Graham vanished after a night out with friends Sept. 12. According to police, she left an off-campus party alone and texted a friend saying she was lost. In surveillance video, she can be seen walking unsteadily and even running at times, past a pub and a service station and then onto a seven-block strip of bars, restaurants and shops. Another video captured her leaving a restaurant with Matthew, who had an arm around her. Graham's disappearance prompted a monthlong search involving thousands



Jesse Matthew Jr., right, looks toward the gallery while appearing in court in Fairfax, Va. Matthew Jr., already charged with the abduction of a University of Virginia student who was missing for weeks before her body was discovered has been indicted on a count of first-degree murder in the case, law enforcement officials said Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Bill O'Leary)

of volunteers as well as police. It ended when searchers found her remains Oct. 18 in rural Albemarle County, roughly six miles (10 kilometers) from the hayfield

where Harrington's body was found in January 2010. Harrington disappeared while attending a Metallica concert at U.Va in October 2009. □

## NYC officer indicted in killing of unarmed man in stairwell

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A rookie police officer who fired into a darkened stairwell at a Brooklyn public housing complex, accidentally killing a man who had been waiting for an elevator, has been indicted in the death, a lawyer Tuesday. Officer Peter Liang will appear in court Wednesday in the shooting death of 28-year-old Akai Gurley, according to Peter Rynecki, an attorney representing Gurley's family. The charges against Liang weren't immediately clear. "This is the first step for justice," Rynecki said.

The shooting occurred Nov. 20 in the weeks before the decision on Staten Island not to indict an officer in the police chokehold death of Eric Garner. The move sparked mass pro-

tests and calls for reform of the grand jury system.

Patrick J. Lynch, head of Liang's union, said Liang deserves due process.

"The fact the he was assigned to patrol one most dangerous housing projects in New York City must be considered among the circumstances of this tragic accident," Lynch said.

Liang and his rookie partner were patrolling the Louis Pink Houses, a public housing development, in Brooklyn's gritty East New York when the officer apparently accidentally discharged his weapon. Gurley had been standing with a woman on a different floor, and after waiting for an elevator that didn't come, he started walking down the stairs. Gurley was struck and killed, police said. □

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## Most senior US senator, to skip Netanyahu speech

**DONNA CASSATA**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP) —**

The U.S. Senate's most senior lawmaker said Tuesday he will skip the Israeli prime minister's speech to Congress next month on Iran, calling the invitation by Republicans without White House consultation a "tawdry and high-handed stunt."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a 42-year veteran, joined a half dozen Democrats who have decided to boycott Benjamin Netanyahu's speech, which comes in

middle of delicate negotiations involving the United States, Western powers and Iran over its nuclear program. Republican House Speaker John Boehner invited Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of Congress on March 3.

"The unfortunate way that House leaders have unilaterally arranged this, and then heavily politicized it, has demolished the potential constructive value of this joint meeting," Leahy said in a statement. "They have orchestrated a tawdry and high-handed stunt

that has embarrassed not only Israel but the Congress itself." Democrats have complained that the speech is an affront to President Barack Obama, who has said he will not meet with Netanyahu when he visits the United States and who said Monday that he has "very real differences" with the Israeli leader over Iran and sanctions.

Vice President Joe Biden also will miss the speech, citing unspecified travel plans. Boehner has defended the invitation.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, the No. 2



**Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington. Leahy, the Senate's most senior lawmaker said Tuesday he will skip the Israeli prime minister's speech to Con-**

**gress next month on Iran, calling the invitation by Republicans without White House consultation a "tawdry and high-handed stunt."**

**(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)**

House Democratic leader, said he would attend Netanyahu's speech, even though he says Boehner should have consulted with the White House and Democrats before inviting the Israeli prime minister to address lawmakers. Hoyer said he spoke to Netanyahu two weeks ago after he was invited to speak.

"I told him of the political consternation that this had caused within our caucus, and that it was unfortunate," he said.

Netanyahu is a sharp critic of administration negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, and Democrats fear he'll use the opportunity to embarrass Obama and further his own re-election prospects. The speech comes two weeks before elections in Israel. □



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## US Financial Front:

# Job openings rise to 14-year high; job quits, hiring up



U.S. Marine Corps veteran Ignacio Yanes, left, writes information given by Jim Brooks, right, of the Small Business Administration at the annual Veterans Career and Resource Fair in Miami. The Labor Department issued its December report on job openings and labor turnover on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of available jobs posted by U.S. employers rose in December to the highest level in 14 years, a sign recent strong job gains will likely continue. Employers also filled more jobs and more employees quit, two additional signs of an improving labor market. Job openings rose 3.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted 5 million, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That is the most since January 2001. Total hires also increased 1.9 percent to 5.1 million, the most in more than seven years. The number of quits rose 2.1 percent to 2.7 million. More quits are a sign of confidence in the economy, because people typically quit when they have another job lined up, usually at higher pay, or are optimistic that they can find a new position.

More openings are usually followed by greater hiring. Businesses appear increasingly confident that the economy will continue to improve and are seeking more staff to meet stronger demand. "Job openings continue to rocket," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "Wage gains will follow." The figures echo last week's jobs report, which showed that businesses are hiring workers at a robust pace and even paying more to attract them. Employers added 257,000 jobs in January, and wages rose at the fastest one-month pace in six years. Hiring has accelerated in the past three months to the fastest pace since 1997. Employers have added more than 1 million jobs just since November. Those figures are a net total of job gains or losses. Tues-

day's data on job openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS, which provides a more detailed look at the job market than the monthly employment report. It also includes figures for total hiring, as well as the number of quits and layoffs. The step-up in hiring has encouraged many Americans to start looking for work. More than 700,000 people began searching for jobs in January, the most in six years. Not all found work, lifting the number of

unemployed and pushing the unemployment rate to 5.7 percent from 5.6 percent. There are now just 1.7 unemployed workers, on average, for each available job. That's back to pre-recession levels and down from a peak of 6.7 in July 2009, after the recession ended. That ratio suggests employers may soon need to offer more pay to attract workers. Average hourly wages rose 0.5 percent in January, the jobs report said, the most in six years.

Still, in the past 12 months, average pay rose just 2.2 percent. That's below the 3.5 percent level that is consistent with a strong economy. There are always some open jobs even in a depressed economy. Job vacancies fell to 2.1 million in July 2009, the lowest in the 14 years the data has been tracked. Vacancies have soared 29 percent in the past year, a sizzling pace. That raises questions about why they aren't being filled more quickly. □

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# Fighting intensifies in eastern Ukraine ahead of peace talks

PETER LEONARD  
Associated Press

**SARTANA, Ukraine (AP)** —

Fighting intensified Tuesday in eastern Ukraine as pro-Russia rebels and Ukrainian troops sought to extend their gains ahead of crucial peace talks, and the government accused the separatists of shelling a town far behind the front lines, killing 12 people and wounding scores.

Germany, which has joined with France to try to broker a peace deal, urged Russia and Ukraine to compromise and called on the warring parties to refrain from hostilities that could derail a four-way summit Wednesday in Minsk, Belarus.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said the talks were "one of the last" op-

portunities for ending the fighting that has killed more than 5,300 people since April.

Poroshenko told parliament in Kiev that the separatists launched a rocket strike Tuesday on the town of Kramatorsk, more than 30 miles (50 kilometers) from the nearest front line, hitting a regional military command center with the first salvo and then striking a nearby residential area. Rebels denied any involvement in the attack and said it was a "provocation" by the Ukrainian authorities. Kramatorsk was the site of major fighting until July, when pro-Russian separatists retreated.

The government-controlled Donetsk administration said 12 people were killed by the barrage in Kramatorsk



A resident rides his bicycle past a destroyed building in the town of Vuhlehirsk, Ukraine.

(AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

and 64 were wounded, including 29 civilians. Photos on the local Donetskiiye Novosti website showed an artillery shell embedded in the ground next to a residential building and two bodies lying nearby.

Further south, the volunteer Azov battalion, loyal to the government in Kiev, said on social media Tuesday that it captured several villages northeast of the strategic port of Mariupol, pushing the rebels closer to the border with Russia.

However, a rebel spokesman, Eduard Basurin, insisted in a televised news conference that the rebels

had not retreated.

The pro-government volunteers said rebels shelled the village of Kominternove, east of Mariupol, causing unspecified civilian casualties. An Associated Press reporter at a government checkpoint between there and Mariupol heard of fighting several miles away and saw two ambulances and four trucks carrying Ukrainian troops from the direction of Kominternove toward Mariupol.

Oleksandr Turchynov, chairman of the Ukrainian Security and Defense Council, visited the area Tuesday and said the gov-

ernment offensive aimed to bolster the defenses of Mariupol and "protect civilians from artillery strikes." The rebels reported advances, too. Basurin said they had surrounded the railway hub of Debaltseve, the focus of fierce fighting in the past weeks, cutting it off from a major highway.

At least seven Ukrainian troops were killed overnight in the east, military spokesman Anatoliy Matyukhin said, while in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, which faces frequent shelling, two civilians were reported killed and 12 injured. □

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## Putin's Egypt trip nets nuclear plant plan

B. ROHAN  
V. ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Egyptian counterpart said on Tuesday that the two countries plan to jointly build Egypt's first nuclear power plant, as well as boost trade relations and investments.

Putin's landmark two-day visit to Cairo, during which

he was feted with much pomp and pageantry, came as Russia faces heightened tensions with Washington and the European Union over Moscow's backing of separatists in Ukraine.

Both Putin and President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi were eager to deepen a bilateral relationship unimpeded by foreign criticism, strengthening economic

and military ties in part to show they have other options available than working with the West.

The courting of Russia also puts Egypt, a decades-long U.S. ally, into a delicate balancing act with one of its main foreign backers, Saudi Arabia, which supports rebels fighting to overthrow a government that Moscow supports in Syria's civil war.





## From Jordan base, UAE resumes airstrikes on Islamic State



This photo show Emirati pilots at an air base in Jordan, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015. The United Arab Emirates launched airstrikes Tuesday targeting the Islamic State group, its official news agency said, marking its return to combat operations against the militants after it halted flights late last year. (AP Photo/WAM)

**ADAM SCHRECK**  
Associated Press

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — United Arab Emirates fighter planes roared out of an air base in Jordan on Tuesday to pound Islamic State militant positions, marking a return to combat operations by one of the United

States' closest Arab allies in the fight against the extremists.

The Emirates' decision to launch fresh airstrikes from the kingdom after a more-than-monthlong hiatus was a strong show of support for Western-allied Jordan, which has vowed a punishing response to the

militants' killing of one of its pilots.

It also is likely to quiet concerns in Washington about the oil-rich Emirates' commitment to the fight.

The seven-state federation, which includes Abu Dhabi and Dubai, stopped

conducting airstrikes late last year after Jordanian Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh was captured when his plane crashed behind enemy lines, according to American officials. Al-Kaseasbeh was later burned alive in a cage by the mili-

itants.

American defense officials last week said they moved search-and-rescue aircraft closer to the battlefield, helping ease allies' concerns about the coalition's ability to aid downed pilots. □

## Officials: US closing embassy in Yemen amid continued unrest

**LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
**MATTHEW LEE**

Associated Press

**SANAA/WASHINGTON (AP)**

— The United States is closing its embassy in Yemen amid political deadlock and deteriorating security conditions after the takeover of the country by Shiite rebels, two U.S. officials said.

The officials said that diplomats were being evacuated from the country on Tuesday and that the embassy in Sanaa would suspend operations until conditions improve. Ye-

men has been in crisis for months with Iran-linked Shiite Houthi rebels besieging the capital and then taking control. The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the closure publicly on the record.

Marines providing the security at the embassy will also likely leave, officials said, but American forces conducting counterterrorism missions against al-Qaida's Yemen affiliate in other parts of the country would not be affected. □

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## At DSK trial, prostitute says orgy was like 'antiquity'

**PHILIPPE SOTTO  
GREG KELLER  
Associated Press**

**LILLE, France (AP)** — Disgraced former International Monetary Fund boss Dominique Strauss-Kahn sat nonchalantly with folded-arms and stretched legs Tuesday, before telling a French court he was completely unaware that women who participated in orgies at luxury hotels in Paris and Washington were prostitutes.

Saying he was simply a "libertine who likes to party," the 65-year-old Strauss-Kahn took the stand in Lille, accused alongside 13 co-defendants of aggravated pimping in connection with a sex ring centered on the city's Hotel Carlton.

They are accused of operating a prostitution ring out of luxury hotels in Paris, Washington, Lille and Brus-

sels.

One prostitute, who went by the name Jade, also testified — saying one scene evoked an ancient orgy.

"It was like antiquity: a man spread out on a bed with many women around... There weren't other men, so it wasn't about being a libertine. There was something that repulses me: the people and bodies blended together without condoms," she said, acknowledging that she didn't know who Strauss-Kahn was at the time.

She told the court she only recognized him only later on, when he appeared on TV, and exclaimed: "That's him, but with his clothes on."

The economist, known widely as DSK, faces up to 10 years in prison and a 1.5 million-euro (\$1.7 million)

fine if convicted.

The one-time French presidential hopeful, whose career was derailed by a separate sex scandal in

with just a few outlets for recreation, and these sessions were part of that," Strauss-Kahn explained to the court.



**Dominique Strauss-Kahn, center, arrives at the Lille courthouse in Lille, northern France Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015 to testify in a trial involving orgies and an alleged prostitution ring. The trial is scheduled to last three weeks, with Strauss-Kahn not expected to testify until Feb. 10.**  
(AP Photo/Michel Spingler)

New York, said he believed the women at these now-infamous orgies, which were held approximately every three months, were just part of "a group of friends."

In his first testimony since the trial began Feb. 2, Strauss-Kahn confidently reaffirmed his long-standing defense that he didn't know what was legally referred to as the "prostitutional character" of the women who took part in the soirees.

"I had a very hectic life,

He added that he "would have totally stopped participating in these soirees" if he'd known they were prostitutes.

Another prostitute, called Mounia in court, testified that while she never discussed payment with Strauss-Kahn, everyone involved knew she was a prostitute. "For me it was clear that I was there as a prostitute," she said.

The controversy surrounding one of France's most anticipated court cases in years was evident when

three topless protesters from the provocative feminist group Femen disrupted Strauss-Kahn's arrival, one jumping on his car hood. They were later detained by police.

Two of Strauss-Kahn's co-defendants testified Tuesday that they'd kept hidden from Strauss-Kahn the fact that they'd hired prostitutes for the orgies. "It was a secret between him and me," Fabrice Paszkowski told the court, referring to fellow co-defendant David Roquet.

The court has so far heard testimony from some of Strauss-Kahn's fellow defendants, who include a Belgian brothel owner, local businessmen, a police officer and hotel staff accused of organizing sex parties for Strauss-Kahn's benefit.

It's not illegal to pay for sex in France, but it is against the law to solicit or to run a prostitution business.

Prostitutes questioned in the case have said that between 2009 and 2011 — when the IMF chief was dealing with a global financial crisis — Strauss-Kahn was organizing orgies at luxury hotels in Paris, at a restaurant in the French capital and also in Washington. □

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## Dutch government website temporarily down

**MIKE CORDER  
Associated Press**

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The Dutch government's website went down and authorities say they are investigating the cause.

An employee of the Ministry of General Affairs said the outage began

at around 9:45 a.m. (0845 GMT) Tuesday and had not been resolved by early afternoon. The employee declined to be named because he was not an official spokesman.

He says the problem appeared to be at the company that hosts the government website, Proloca-

tion, and that other sites the company hosts also were down. Prolocation could not immediately be reached for comment.

The last major outage at the government's site, in May 2013, was caused by hackers launching a so-called denial of service attack. □



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## Venezuela unveils new foreign exchange system



Venezuela's Minister of Economy, Finance and Public Banking, Rodolfo Marco Torres, left, and Venezuela's Central Bank Chairman Nelson J. Merentes, walk after a press conference at the Central bank office building in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ**  
Associated Press

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuelan officials announced Tuesday that they will allow a free-floating exchange rate for the country's battered currency while maintaining a subsidized

rate for key imports. The socialist South American government has been struggling to maintain its decade-old currency controls as inflation has soared with heavy public spending. Now the falling price of petroleum is slamming the oil-

based economy.

While the bolivar is trading for about 190 per dollar on the black market, the government sells dollars for the most crucial imports at rates of 6.3 or 12 bolivars and demands that retailers hold down prices to reflect the subsidies.

It has also been selling limited amounts of hard currency at a third rate, around 52 bolivars to the dollar, but officials say that rate will now be replaced by a more transparent system in which dealers and buyers exchange currency on a supply and demand basis.

Finance Minister Rodolfo Marco Torres said the new system would be "totally free," with "the market itself setting the exchange rate." But officials said trades would have to be made through authorized banks or exchange houses and only people with dollar-denominated bank accounts can take part.

As it struggles with a cash crunch, the government has limited the dollars it auctions at any of the rates, and businesses say delays in getting money for imports has fed shortages. The exchange difficulties have driven

people to an illegal parallel market. The new system announced Tuesday could allow greater access to dollars, but at a far higher price than legally possible before. Central Bank President Nelson Merentes encouraged Venezuelans living outside the country to use the new system to send money back home. Analysts called the new system an effective devaluation, which most economists agree is needed on a larger scale to right the country's economy, but also said the new system would likely be more tightly regulated than officials suggest. □

## New DNA found in mystery death probe in Argentina

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — Argentine investigators said Tuesday they have found a second person's DNA in the apartment where prosecutor Alberto Nisman was found dead and have called in a witness to check for a match.

Nisman's mysterious death came days after he presented a report alleging that President Cristina Fernandez had conspired to protect Iranian officials implicated in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in which 85 people died. Fernandez and Iran have denied the allegations. The statement released by

the office of Judge Fabiana Palmaghini said she is calling in a person who visited Nisman the day before his body was found. She did not name him, but consultant Diego Lagomarsino has acknowledged visiting Nisman on Jan. 17.

Conspiracy theories swirl around Nisman's death, as well as the bombing, which has never been solved. Polls show many Argentines suspect officials had some hand in the death, while aides to President Cristina Fernandez have suggested he was killed as part of a plot to destabilize and bring down the government. □

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# Caribbean reports record number of tourists, spending in '14



Residents of Aruba participate in a Carnival Parade on Aruba. A record 26.3 million people traveled to the Caribbean last year and spent an unprecedented amount of money in what is considered the world's most tourism-dependent region, officials said Tuesday. The Dutch Caribbean saw the most growth, with Aruba for the first time reporting more than 1 million visitors. (Aruba Today Photo)

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— A record 26.3 million people traveled to the Caribbean last year and spent an unprecedented amount of money in what is considered the world's most tourism-dependent region, officials said Tuesday.

It is the fifth consecutive year that the Caribbean has reported an increase in tourists following an economic crisis that forced resorts to shut down and caused a drop in visitors and spending.

Hugh Riley, the Caribbean Tourism Organization's secretary general, said Caribbean tourism rose by 5.3 percent, while the worldwide tourism growth rate was 4.7 percent. Officials attributed the increase in part to improvements at airports around the region, the opening of new hotel chains and an increase in direct flights and airline seat capacity.

The Dutch Caribbean saw the most growth, with Aruba for the first time reporting more than 1 million visitors. The Dominican Republic,

Cuba and Jamaica also saw an unprecedented number of visitors. Smaller destinations including Haiti, St. Lucia and Belize reported a record number of stay-over arrivals. A surge in visitors from Canada, the U.S. and Europe helped set those records.

"It tells us that stability is returning to the market," said Richard Sealy, chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

Tourists overall spent more than \$29 billion in the Caribbean last year, an increase of more than \$1 billion over the previous year.

The region also welcomed nearly 24 million cruise ship passengers last year, an 8 percent increase, though Winfield Griffith, the organization's research director, said he expected "another shift away from the Caribbean as the cruise lines try to diversify their product" in 2015.

Tourism officials also are keeping an eye on Cuba, with the island expected to attract far more tourists this year as relations between the U.S. and Cuba begin to thaw. □

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## Puerto Rico considers fining parents of obese children

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico**

**(AP)** — Legislators in Puerto Rico are debating a bill that would fine parents of obese children up to \$800 if they don't lose weight.

The bill aims to improve children's wellbeing and help parents make healthier choices, Sen. Gilberto Rodriguez said in a statement issued Monday.

Public hearings for the bill are scheduled to begin Friday.

If approved, public school teachers would flag potential obesity cases and refer them to a counselor or social worker, depending on

the severity of the case. Health Department officials would then meet with the parents and determine whether the obesity is a result of bad eating habits or a medical condition. They also would create a diet-and-exercise program combined with monthly visits to ensure it's being followed.

After six months, officials would evaluate the child again, with parents possibly facing between \$500 and \$800 in fines if the situation does not improve within another six months to a year. □





## Love Is In the Air at Paseo Herencia for Valentines' Day!



**PALM BEACH-** Love is in the air this Valentines' Day at Paseo Herencia! Paseo Herencia Shopping & Entertainment Center in Palm Beach attracts visitors by continually increasing and enhancing ser-

vices and offering special events. For Valentines' Day the restaurants at Paseo Herencia will provide special menus for you and your loved ones to come and celebrate a romantic evening. On Pla-

za Padu at 8pm, visitors will be entertained by romantic music under the stars by violinist Angela Flores. For special gifts, stores at Paseo Herencia offer a wide selection from clothing and jewelry to per-

fumes and souvenirs and much more! For Valentines' Day, DLG will offer up to 50% off select items, Havaianas will offer 15% off on flip-flops, at Maggy's buy 2 perfumes and get 3rd one free, receive a free T-shirt with purchase of \$100 or more at Yolo, and Pandora will feature two unique gift sets for the special occasion of Valentine's Day. For those who simply cannot choose between all of these great offerings,

Paseo Herencia Gift Certificates are available at the parking cashier till midnight. Stores at Paseo are open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 10pm and on Sunday from 5pm till 10pm. New at Paseo is that parking is available completely free during week days up to 12noon and in the weekends till 5pm starting February 1st. Come and discover what's new and fun, while sharing a romantic experience at Paseo Herencia! ☐



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**At Kitchen Table by White;**

## Carnival Colors and Flavors Inspire the February Menu

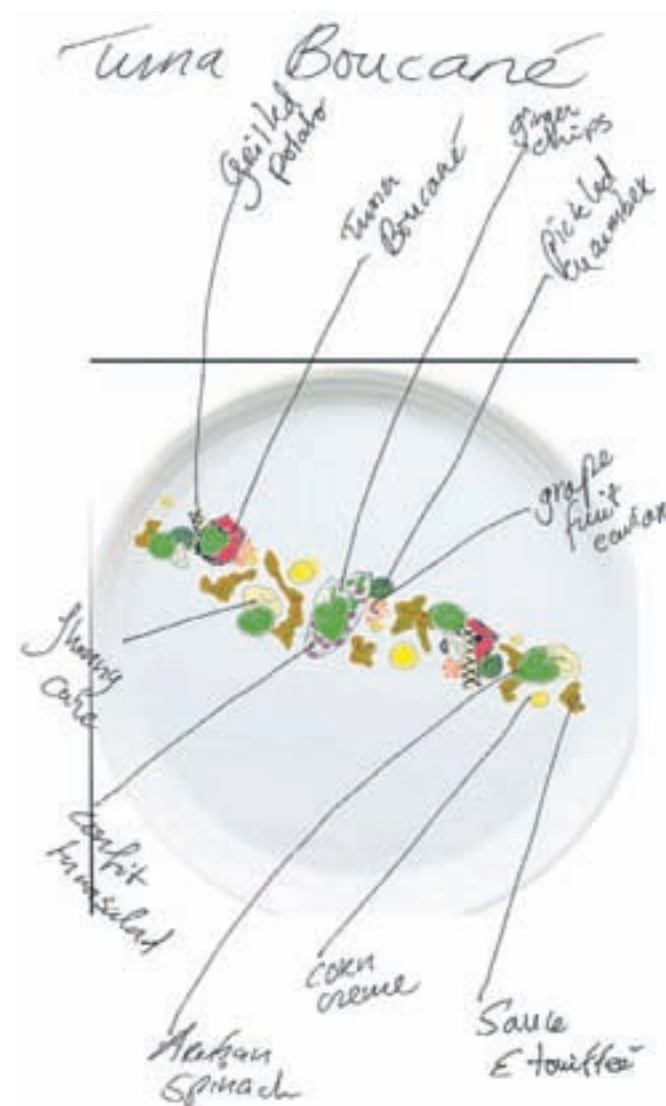
Since last summer those who seek the most innovative dining experience have been flocking to Kitchen Table by White in Blue Residence. Patrons have expressed their delight with the inventive menu by Chef Urvin Croes, a native Aruban son. He is a graduate of Aruba's excellent EPI culinary institute; he then went on to perfect his art while attending culinary school in Holland and apprenticing at the famous Michelin star restaurant Brasserie Karel V in Utrecht. "It was love at first bite!" reports Michelle T of Connecticut on Tripadvisor, rating the cozy bistro as a perfect 5 stars. Others have called it an "Outstanding Evening," and describe it as "Aruban haute cuisine" and the "top culinary experience on Aruba," with



props to Sommelier Carlito for his perfect wine pairing to enhance each dish. The argument among European diners is whether this restaurant would have two or three Michelin stars. The 8-course, prix fixe menu changes monthly, so don't miss Chef Urvin's newest creations for February! This month, adventurous epicureans can expect a colorful tribute to Aruba's

carnival; a mélange of flavors that will explosively tingle and tantalize the taste buds. The artistic presentation is a feast for the eyes as well.

Each item on the menu has been named for the most prominent carnival events. "Fakel" is the Torch Parade that heralds in the carnival season, and the first course, a pan-fried chicken breast with Madame Janette Pepper Sauce and a unique collection of fresh, regional garnishes, is just as lively. This is followed by "Calypso," "Carnival Queen," "Tumba," "Lighting Parade," "Grand Parade," and "Momo." Chef Urvin visualized each dish's namesake event, translating their essential spirit to his haute cuisine. Prior to actually cooking each new, inno-



vative item, he visualizes and draws a "blueprint." In this manner he best incorporates the base ingredients with the fresh sauces and garnishes he prefers to deploy, acquainting his patrons with the unique, authentic flavors of Aruba and the region.

Chef Urvin reports his Calypso dish is a Tuna Boucané, devised after he did an in-depth study of the history of jerk seasoning and preparation. He discovered the technique originated in Martinique with the buccaneers, cooked over sugar cane, which imparts a distinct flavor.

"One of the things I love about my work is researching the dishes I invent. I find it is historically educational, discovering the origins of the various cuisines. I particularly enjoy sharing this

with our customers during the evening, while we prepare the food before them, helping them to understand the traditions and creative process behind each dish.

"Grand Parade" is designed to appear as a passion fruit tree, with this deliciously refreshing fruit panacotta cleansing the palate following the main course, followed by the tradition of a sweet dessert. "Momo," the grand finale of Aruba's carnival, is reflected in a concoction of pumpkin custard and spicy chocolate cake.

Seating at Kitchen Table is extremely limited. Only 14 reservations accepted nightly and four held for spur-of-the-moment gourmands. Reserve early online via [reservations@ktbywhite.com](mailto:reservations@ktbywhite.com) or call 528-7015. □

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## Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

**ORANJESTAD** - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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**Zforall, Sarasota, FL-USA**  
TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

## Enjoy a Romantic Dinner with Stunning Sunset Views At Bugaloe!



**PALM BEACH** – While Aruba in itself is known as one of the Caribbean's most romantic islands, the romance really finds its form on February 14th, Valentine's Day! Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill located on De Palm Pier between the Radisson Resort and Riu Hotel, will join in on the romance and offer you and your special someone an

unforgettable evening of dining and entertainment. The waterfront location couldn't be better for romance with the sweeping ocean views on all sides. There's no better place to be at sunset! Our chef Marc Hernandez has pulled out all the stops to ensure you will have an unforgettable evening. His creation of

a delicious Bugaloe Love Platter is filled with these mouth-watering items:  
- Crispy tortilla topped with lettuce, crumbled goat cheese, cucumber, and bacon drizzled with honey.  
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- Shrimp in tomato sauce topped with parmesan.  
- Mini chicken skewers with onion and peppers topped with tzatziki sauce.



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ribbean atmosphere. What better way to surprise your significant other? Reserve your seat and call us today at: +297-586-2233. For more information please visit: [www.bugaloe.com](http://www.bugaloe.com); [www.facebook.com/bugaloe.aruba](http://www.facebook.com/bugaloe.aruba). □







## The Hollywood Smokehouse: A Delicious Original!



**EAGLE BEACH** - Come and visit Aruba's only original smokehouse, The Holly-

wood Smokehouse, owned and operated by local couple Michael and Tina

Bislick. The restaurant is well known for their signature southern



style cuisine. Serving hickory and apple wood smoked pork and beef brisket. Let's not forget to mention their juicy burgers and delicious tacos. While waiting for your food to be served with a smile, you can sip on your favorite drink and enjoy some

live music. Good food and good music it's what is all about here at The Hollywood Smokehouse, moved into their new location at the Alhambra Casino and shops complex. Come and visit The Hollywood Smokehouse today! □

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## NFL concussion deal appears near, but concerns remain

MARYCLAIRE DALE  
Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — The potential \$1 billion settlement of NFL concussion claims appears very close to winning final approval from a federal judge, to the chagrin of critics who believe the plan remains murky or pays too little to struggling former players. Hours after Tom Brady led the New England Patriots to another Super Bowl title, the judge weighing the plan to cover some 20,000 NFL retirees suggested only a few minor revisions.

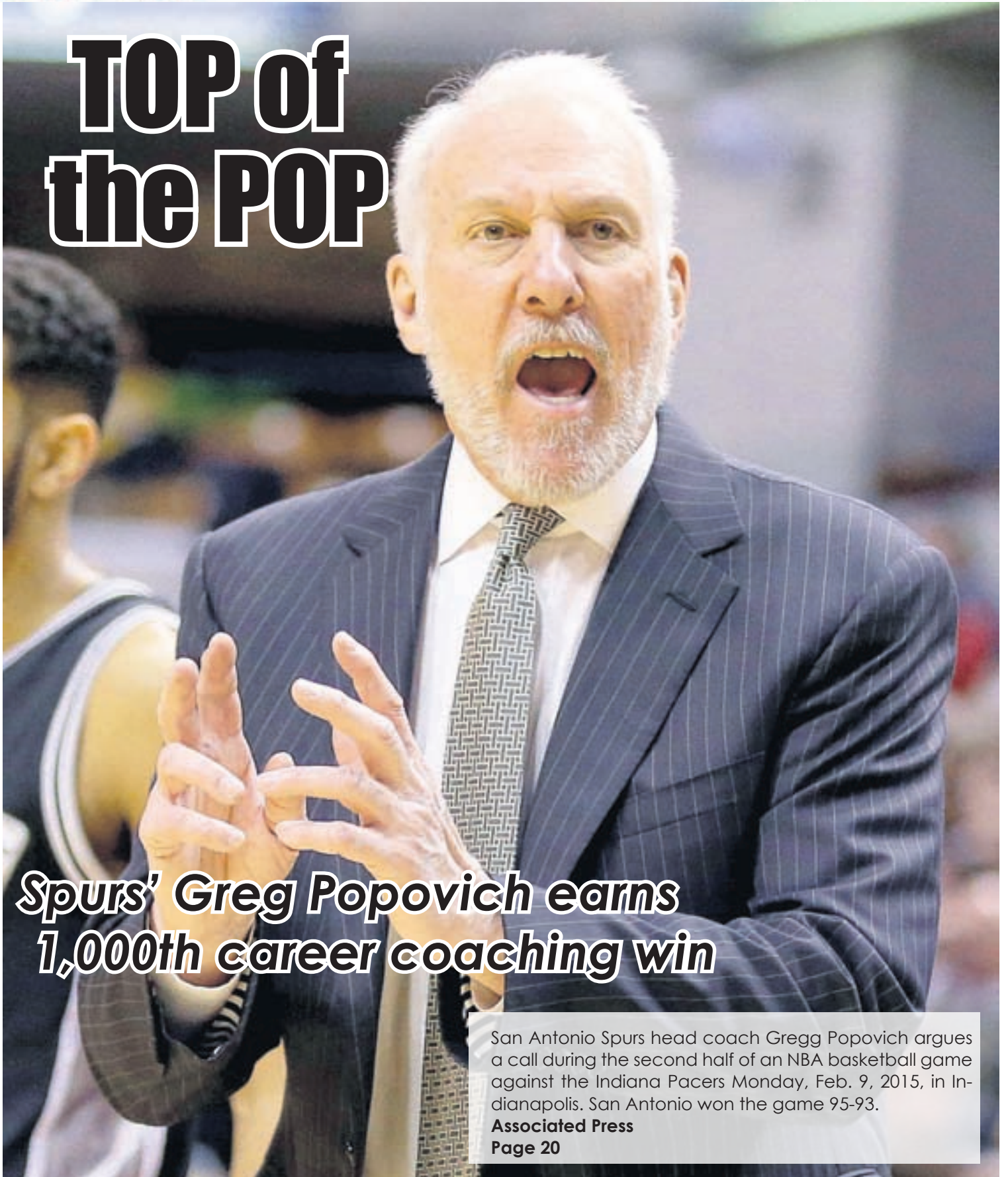
"There were no deal-breakers. There were tweaks," said lawyer Craig Mitnick, who represents more than 1,000 ex-players. He expects the lead players' lawyers and NFL to resolve Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody's concerns and revise the plan by her Friday deadline. Brody suggested that the awards include time spent in NFL Europe and other affiliated leagues, and they cover brain-trauma deaths through the day the deal is finalized.

Missing from her proposed fixes was any mention of the broader criticisms raised at a November fairness hearing. They include three key concerns:

Continued on page 19

# TOP of the POP

## Spurs' Gregg Popovich earns 1,000th career coaching win



San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich argues a call during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Indianapolis. San Antonio won the game 95-93.

Associated Press  
Page 20

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# Raonic prevails in tight three-setter in Rotterdam

**ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)** — Second-seeded Milos Raonic was made to work for a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 7-5 victory over qualifier

Andrey Kuznetsov and a place in the second round of the World Tennis Tournament on Tuesday.

Coming off an Australian Open quarterfinals loss, Raonic hit 19 aces to rally past the 23-year-old Russian in a contest lasting nearly two hours. Raonic got off to a sluggish start but managed to claw his way back into the match with his big serve.

The sixth-ranked Canadian, who will take on Simone Bolelli in the next round, lost only six points on his first serve.

"It's about fighting through," Raonic said. "I kept my attitude together, which allowed me to get my game and find answers toward the end, and that's



Canada's Milos Raonic returns the ball to Russia's Andrey Kuznetsov during their first round match of the 42nd ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015. Raonic won in three sets 6-7, 6-1, 7-5.

Associated Press

why I was able to win." Third-seeded

Berdych had an easier day, advancing with a 6-1,

7-5 win over lucky loser Tobias Kamke. But the hard-hitting Czech, who fired 11 aces, was not satisfied with his game after letting his German opponent break him twice.

"It was most definitely not the perfect first round," Berdych said. "Actually, I think it's better.

If you start almost perfect, then you don't have space to improve. Definitely after today there are many things to improve."

Earlier, eighth-seeded Gilles Simon defeated Joao Sousa 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 and Vasek Pospisil converted three of his four break points in a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Philip Kohlschreiber.

Sergiy Stakhovsky will face Dominic Thiem in the second round after beating Marcel Granollers 6-2, 7-6 (7).

**Cornet battles to reach**

**2nd round in Antwerp**

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) — Seventh-seeded Alize Cornet avoided an early upset at the Diamond Games as she rallied to beat Belinda Bencic 1-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the first round on Tuesday.

Cornet won just nine points in the first set as she struggled to switch from clay to hard court after helping France reach the Fed Cup semifinals in a 3-2 victory over Italy last weekend.

After taking a 3-1 lead in the deciding set, she failed twice to hold serve in a tense finale before closing out the match on her serve. Cornet said "in the beginning of the match, I was completely lost on the court, but I used the weapons I had and in the end it was enough."

Francesca Schiavone, Alison Van Uytvanck and Annika Beck also progressed Tuesday. □

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## NFL Concussion

Continued from page 17

— That the average payout of \$190,00 for aging men struggling with Alzheimer's disease or dementia is too low;  
— That the plan has too many variables to estimate what families should expect, and decide to opt out or appeal; and  
— That there are no future payouts for what many call the "signature" scourge of football concussions — CTE, or chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

"We have been screaming that CTE is the most serious ... injury that will occur to these players over time," Chicago lawyer Thomas Demetrio said last week. "The portion of the brain that controls our mood, our anger, suicidal tendencies — that's all gone (from future payouts). The NFL has gotten rid of it for all time." Demetrio represents the family of the late Dave Duerson, the popular Chicago Bears safety who was found to have CTE after his 2011 suicide.

Currently, CTE can only be diagnosed after death, and has been found in the brains of dozens of concussed ex-athletes. However, some scientists believe there may be tests for the living within 10 years. The settlement would pay up to \$4 million to the families of those who died with CTE between 2006 and, if the deal concludes this year, 2015.

But there would be no award for future deaths involving CTE, to avoid "incentivizing" suicide. And there's no plan to include men with non-cognitive problems, such as depression, rage and other mood disorders.

"There's no solid scientific data that suggests those symptoms absolutely correlate with concussions," Mitnick said. "You have to draw the line somewhere or the settlement becomes unfair to the NFL."

The settlement could pay out \$1 billion over 65 years, including interest and \$112 million for potential lawyer

fees, according to court filings.

All retirees would get baseline testing. And the NFL expects some 6,000 men — or 28 percent — to qualify for an award because of Alzheimer's disease or moderate dementia.

The lawsuits accuse the league of hiding studies linking concussions to neu-

rological problems for decades. However, the NFL has argued that, unless a settlement is reached, the cases should be heard in arbitration and not in court. "The thing that's very disheartening, (with Brody's order coming) the day after the Super Bowl, the day after such a blatant show of extravagance, (that) so

many people are going to be left out in the cold," said Eleanor Perfetto of Annapolis, Md., whose husband, Ralph Wenzel, had both Alzheimer's disease and CTE when he died in 2010. He had played for Pittsburgh and San Diego from 1966 to 1973. He was 69 when he died, and had been ill for more than a decade.

Perfetto, a health sciences professor at Johns Hopkins University, said the factors involved in the award grid, including the age of diagnosis, are unfair and hard to calculate.

"It's virtually impossible for (former players) and their families to figure out exactly what is being offered," she said. □



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San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich talks with Patty Mills (8) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers, Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

### The Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — The San Antonio Spurs' huge fourth-quarter rally helped Gregg Popovich reach the 1,000-win milestone Monday night.

Marco Belinelli's baseline jumper with 2.1 seconds left capped San Antonio's 95-93 victory at Indiana.

Popovich became the ninth coach with 1,000 reg-

ular-season wins and the third-fastest to achieve the feat. He also joined former Utah coach Jerry Sloan as the only coaches in NBA history to win 1,000 games with one team.

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 19 points. Tim Duncan had 15.

Rodney Stuckey scored 18 for Indiana, which had won a season-best three in

a row.

The Pacers had a 79-65 lead after three quarters. But the Spurs scored nine straight to tie the score at 91, tied it again at 93, took the lead on Belinelli's shot and held on when George Hill's 3-pointer bounced off the rim.

**THUNDER 124, NUGGETS 114**

**DENVER (AP)** — Kevin Durant scored 40 points and Russell Westbrook had 26 as Oklahoma City beat Denver to hand the Nuggets their sixth loss in a row. Durant matched a career best by hitting seven 3-pointers and finished 13 of 19 from the floor. Mitch McGary added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

The Nuggets, who have lost 13 of 14, were led by Wilson Chandler's 23 points. Ken-

### NBA Capsules

## Popovich earns win No. 1,000 as Spurs get past Pacers 95-93

neth Faried and Ty Lawson each added 22 for Denver, which also lost its sixth straight at home — its longest home skid since dropping seven in a row at the Pepsi Center from Feb. 6 to March 2, 2003.

Trailing by 14 at halftime, the Nuggets scored the first nine points of the third quarter to pull to 73-68. But Westbrook countered with a 3 to spark a 13-3 burst that put the Thunder back in front by 15.

**WARRIORS 89, 76ERS 84**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Stephen Curry scored 20 points and Leandro Barbosa had 16 off the bench as Golden State snapped Philadelphia's four-game home winning streak.

Klay Thompson and former Sixer Andre Iguodala added 13 points apiece for the Warriors (41-9), who have won four of five and two straight after opening their four-game road trip with a loss to the Hawks on Friday. Robert Covington scored 21 points to pace the 76ers (12-41), who committed 27 turnovers and shot 7 for 24 from 3-point range. Luc Mbah a Moute had 13 points and nine rebounds. Golden State, the NBA's second-best 3-point shooting team, shot just 7 for 29 from behind the arc.

**HAWKS 117, TIMBERWOLVES 105**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Al Horford scored a season-high 28 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and DeMarre Carroll added a career-best 26 points to lift Atlanta over Minnesota.

Paul Millsap had 19 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Hawks (43-10), who bounced back from a

loss to Memphis the previous night. The NBA-leading Hawks still have not lost back-to-back games since Nov. 18. They shot 51 percent and outscored Minnesota 58-44 in the paint.

Kevin Martin scored 21 points and Shabazz Muhammad had 18 points and eight rebounds in his first game since Jan. 9 because of a strained oblique for Minnesota. The Timberwolves lost for the first time in four games.

**WIZARDS 96, MAGIC 80**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — John Wall fell one point short of his first triple-double of the season, and Marcin Gortat had 14 points and 14 rebounds as Washington beat Orlando to sweep the season series.

Wall hit a 3-pointer early in the third quarter — the first shot made from beyond the arc by either team — to open an 11-0 run that put Washington in control. He wound up with nine points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds after missing a floater with about 50 seconds left.

The Wizards have won two in a row following a five-game losing streak. They went 4-0 against the Magic this season and have won the past eight matchups. Evan Fournier scored 18 for Orlando, which is 1-2 under interim coach James Borrego. Overall, the Magic have lost 12 of 13.

**HEAT 109, KNICKS 95**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Chris Bosh scored 32 points and Mario Chalmers added 18 as Miami pulled away from New York. Luol Deng and Norris Cole each scored 12 for the Heat, who posted their biggest comeback win of the season after trailing by 14 early. □

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# Yakupov scores winning goal, Oilers beat Devils 2-1

The Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Nail Yakupov shook off an early mid-ice collision and scored a game-winning power-play goal in the second period to lead the Edmonton Oilers to a 2-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Monday night.

Jordan Eberle had the primary assist on Yakupov's goal, and helped set up defenseman Oscar Klefbom's tally as the Oilers snapped a two-game losing streak. Ben Scrivens made 13 saves in sending the Devils to their second straight loss.

Edmonton (15-30-9) has the fewest wins in the NHL. Patrik Elias scored for the Devils, who had gone 8-2-2 in their previous 12. Cory Schneider had 22 saves, including a stop on a break-away by Teddy Purcell with just over three minutes to play.

Scrivens wasn't seriously tested in the third period, and the crowd booed during the closing seconds. Yakupov missed a couple of first-period shifts after a collision with Devils forward Steve Bernier.

**KINGS 4, BLUE JACKETS 3**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Jeff Carter and Dwight King each had a goal and an assist, and Jonathan Quick stopped 23 shots to lead Los Angeles past Columbus.

Tyler Toffoli and Dustin Brown also scored for the Kings, and Brayden McNabb added two assists.

Scott Hartnell, playing in his 1,000th NHL game, notched his 263rd goal. David Savard had a goal and an assist, and Jack Skille and scored for the Blue Jackets. Curtis McElhinney had 40 saves.

Savard's goal with 1:53 remaining drew Columbus within 4-3. Quick made four late saves to preserve the lead.

Carter, a former Blue Jackets player continually booed by Columbus fans for asking to be trad-



Edmonton Oilers right wing Nail Yakupov (10), of Russia, celebrates his goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the New Jersey Devils Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

ed, helped the Kings win the Stanley Cup after the deal three years ago. He has scored seven goals in 12 games against the Blue Jackets.

Carter hadn't had a point in the previous four games, but he raised his career point total to 498.

**WILD 5, CANUCKS 3**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Jason Pominville and Ryan Suter scored power-play goals, and Devan Dubnyk earned another victory in the net, guiding Minnesota past Vancouver for its sixth straight win in regulation.

Jordan Schroeder got his first goal with the Wild, against the team that drafted him, and Nino Niederreiter and Kyle Brodziak also scored to send Canucks goalie Ryan Miller to an early exit midway through the second period. The Wild raised their record to 8-1-1 in the last 10 games, all with Dubnyk in goal since his arrival in a trade. They moved within three points of the cut for the second wild card spot in the Western Conference, against which they are 17-10-4 with seven consecutive victories in a row.

Zack Kassian, Shawn Matthias and Ryan Stanton

scored goals and Dan Hamhuis had two assists for the Canucks.

**COYOTES 3, BLACKHAWKS 2, SO**

CHICAGO (AP) — Antoine Vermette scored in regulation and netted the deciding goal in the third round of the shootout to lift Arizona over Chicago.

Lucas Lessio also connected in the shootout, and Arizona's Shane Doan scored in regulation to help the Coyotes snap a two-game losing streak. Oliver Ekman-Larsson assisted on both of Arizona's goals.

Chicago's Marian Hossa scored two goals for the second straight game, and Jonathan Toews set up both. Hossa recorded Chicago's final two goals in a 4-2 win at St. Louis on Sunday. Before this run, he had just two goals in 15 games. Patrick Kane scored the only Blackhawks goal in the shootout against Mike Smith, who made 36 saves through an overtime that had a wild finish.

Chicago's Antti Raanta finished with 27 saves, but stopped only one of three shots in the shootout. Raanta had to make a point-blank save on Doan with 30 seconds left in overtime fol-

lowing a Chicago turnover. FLAMES 4, SHARKS 1 SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Jiri Hudler scored his fifth goal of the season against San Jose to help Calgary win for the fourth time in five games.

Mason Raymond, Lance Bouma and David Jones also scored for the Flames, who won four of five meetings this season against San Jose to move ahead of the Sharks into second place in the Pacific Division. Jonas Hiller made 33 saves.

Brent Burns scored the lone goal for the Sharks but also committed the penalty that led to Hudler's power-play goal in the third period that helped seal the game for the Flames. Antti Niemi made 22 saves for the Sharks, who have lost four of five.

In other NHL Arizona 3, Chicago 2, SO; Edmonton 2, New Jersey 1; Los Angeles 4, Columbus 3; Minnesota 5, Vancouver 3; and Calgary 4, San Jose 1. □

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By: Dr. Carlos Viana

**We are currently involved with a movement that is more than a harmless symbolic party in the streets. Anthropologists and Traditional Chinese Medical physicians know that people, as part of nature, are influenced by a surge of hormones that takes place in all animals this time of the year. Hormones, which if we do not learn to live with will have us, do things that we cannot understand.**

Carnival is an annual spring celebration of life found in many countries of the world. By learning about carnival, we can learn more about accepting and understanding other cultures. Like anything in life, by understanding what is going on we can better take care of ourselves.

We can read about the ancient Roman festival in honor of Bacchus as the best historical account of what originally went on during spring rites. The historical record reads that a great number of converts gave in to the free flowing wine. The festivities existed for provoking or exciting lustful, erotic participation among the participants, including all sort of unre-

strained self-indulgent sexual behavior.

Here in Aruba we have a saying that says, "What done while drunk does not count"; an unfortunate social excuse for not having to take responsibility for your actions. Several people partying in the streets will drink themselves to the point of Alcohol Poisoning, which is an acute medical emergency. Passing out is not always just sleeping it off.

How can you tell if someone is about to become a victim of alcohol poisoning and if they are what can you do to help? The signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning is a person who is unconscious or semi-consciousness and has slow respiration (breaths) of eight or less per minute or lapses between breaths of more than eight seconds; often they will have cold, clammy, pale or bluish skin. In the event of alcohol poisoning, this will most likely be accompanied by a strong odor of alcohol.

If you encounter a person who exhibits one or more of the signs and symptoms, CALL 911. While waiting for help to arrive, gently turn the intoxicated person on his/her side and maintain that position by placing a pillow in the small of the person's back. This is important to prevent aspiration (choking) should the person vomit. Stay with the person until medical help arrives. If a person appears to be "sleeping it off" it is important to realize that

even though a person may be semi-conscious, alcohol already in the stomach may continue to enter the bloodstream and circulate throughout the body. The person's life may still be in danger. If you are having difficulty in determining whether an individual is acutely intoxicated, contact a first aid provider immediately—the victim cannot afford for you to guess.

With all this alcohol and dancing for many it equals sexual activity. The many underage girls who were impregnated last year during Carnival do have to live with the consequences, as do the "children of children." Besides pregnancies, unprotected sex provides the risk for sexually transmitted diseases. AIDS is still a major public health concern in spite of all the public education campaigns.

While you are partying in the streets, alcohol consumption, dancing and sun ads up to dehydration that has three stages of medical emergency. Dehydration sets in because the alcohol uses much body water and you are also losing much water through perspiration as your body tries to keep cool. Only water or apple juice will replenish your body's water reserves. Fruit juice or carbonated soft drinks do not help any to replenish your body's water. If no water is consumed the dehydration leads to heat cramps where cramping of muscles of the abdomen, legs, and arms take place. People with

heat cramps are pale, have moist clammy skin, and rapid shallow breathing. There is still time to cool off and drink water to help correct the problem. Unfortunately, if not addressed the last stage of dehydration is a life threatening heat stroke. A victim presents with red flushed skin. The person might or might not be sweating. Their pulse is rapid and as their temperature continues to rise above 105 F degrees they will appear disoriented and confused; before they lose consciousness; throwing water, beer, any cool liquid on them, to cool them down as quickly as possible helps. One afternoon of becoming dehydrated can take weeks to recover.

Do not forget your ears. Some of these music wagons have sound decibels well in the range that causes ear damage. Earplugs, especially for children are a good idea. In your Healthy Carnival Kit, many given out free by public health and local charities, sunscreen should also be included. You know what I think about all the drugs that will be available.

Get The Point! Dancing in the streets with togetherness of those around you can be fun. Leaving work and worries behind can be relaxing, and dancing is great exercise. Throughout the many weeks of festivities and after the party, we are here to remind you to eat well, which may include at least a natural multi-vitamin or other supplementation

for stress and energy. Be smart and use protection in this time of sexual liberation and above all, stay well hydrated. We are here to help you increase energy, control cravings, and recover safely and as quickly as possible.q

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

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# Flipboard magazines not just for mobile anymore

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) —

Smartphones and tablets have been pushing the personal computer aside, thanks in part to popular apps made by mobile-first entrepreneurs like Flipboard CEO Mike McCue. But the desktop's definitely not dead.

In fact, it's the mode of choice for many readers, especially during business hours. McCue plans to capitalize on that with Tuesday's launch of a Web browser version of Flipboard's digital magazine service. Until now, Flipboard's 15 million magazines could only be read through a mobile app.

"There is a whole group of people who don't do that much browsing on their phones. That's what they use their computer for," McCue said during an interview at Flipboard's Palo Alto, California, headquarters.

Besides winning new converts with the expanded access, McCue is also hoping many of Flipboard's 50 million existing users will visit the service more frequently now that it's on PCs.

PC sales have been in a slump for the past two years, though there have been recent signs the worst of the decline is over. Meanwhile, sales of mobile devices are still surging despite a recent slowdown in the tablet market. Worldwide PC shipments declined 2 percent last year to about 309 million machines while smartphone sales climbed 28 percent to 1.3 billion devices and tablet sales increased 4 percent to 230 million, according to the research firm International Data Corp.

All but a few of the magazines in Flipboard are free. They are created through links culled from users' social media accounts or put together by other Flipboard users interested in sharing their interests and expertise with other readers, as well as professional publishers trying to expand their digital audiences. Flipboard lists the magazines under 34,000 different topics.

Flipboard was originally designed for tablets, but smartphones now account for about 70 percent of user activity, McCue said. That figure seems likely to change now that it's been tailored for the desktop. PCs remain the most popular way to access Internet services during the weekdays when most people are at work, with smartphones running second, according to data from comScore Inc. It isn't until the evening when tablets become the leading Internet-connected device, with peak usage occurring around 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Flipboard isn't the only popular mobile app making the leap to the PC in search of new users and deeper engagement. Last month, Facebook's mobile messaging service WhatsApp offered a version for Web browsers, although a user's smartphone must be on and online for the syncing to work. The trend reflects a growing realization among mobile-focused apps that they can't ignore PCs if they want to connect with users as much as possible, said Forrester Research analyst Frank Gillett. "It doesn't make sense to users if they up show up to a service



In this photo taken Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, Flipboard founder and CEO Mike McCue poses with a laptop computer displaying his digital magazine at his company's headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif. Associated Press

on a PC and get ignored, but get all this magic if you show up on a mobile device."

Flipboard's Web browser version, built over the past 18 months, is designed to detect and automatically adjust to the different screen sizes of PCs. The largest canvas of PC screens allows Flipboard to rearrange the way the content appears on desktops so compelling pictures are showcased in bigger sizes and different layouts than on a smartphone, or even a tablet. For now, the magazine pages on Flipboard's PC version are scrolled through with a mouse instead of flipped through with a touch as on the mobile apps.

Coming to the PC fulfills McCue's original vision for Flipboard when he came up with the idea in 2009 shortly after leaving Tellme, a voice-rec-

ognition service that he started and eventually sold to Microsoft for \$800 million. After concluding that Web browsers and chips at that time were too clunky to produce digital magazines that looked as snazzy as print

editions, McCue and Flipboard co-founder Evan Doll turned their attention to the iPad before moving on to smartphones. "Our users sitting in front of their PCs can finally stop wondering why they can't use Flipboard," McCue said. □

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## Stocks advance on earnings, possible Greece deal

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A mix of positive earnings and corporate news boosted stocks on Tuesday. Signs that Greece might be willing to broker a deal with its creditors also gave the market a lift.

Coca-Cola rose after the company reported a better-than-expected quarterly profit. General Motors gained after an activist investor said he would seek a seat on the company's board and push for a stock buyback. Apple passed another milestone, becoming the first U.S. company to be valued at more than \$700 billion.

Stock investors have had a bumpy ride since the start of the year.

The market slumped in January as the ongoing drop in oil prices hit energy stocks and amid worries about the prospects for global growth. Stocks have bounced back in February as energy stocks rose from their lows and on signs that the U.S. economy is maintaining its recovery. On Tuesday, stocks logged a solid gain even after a big drop in oil prices pushed the energy sector lower.

"The economic data is coming in OK, and when you delve into the big picture of the earnings reports, they're not bad," said Robert Pavlik, Chief Investment Strategist at Boston Private Wealth. "People want to be in the market when it

starts to go back up."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 21.85 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,068.59. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 139.55 points,

have taken a drubbing this year after the radical left-led government renewed a pledge to seek debt forgiveness and dubbed the country's rescue package,

alysts at Citigroup said the upturn would likely to prove short-lived and predicted that rising inventory costs could push the price as low as \$20 a barrel.



**Specialist Joseph Mastrolia, right, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A mix of positive earnings and corporate news boosted stocks on Tuesday. Signs that Greece might be willing to broker a deal with its creditors also gave the market a lift.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

or 0.8 percent, to 17,868.76. The Nasdaq composite rose 61.63 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,787.64.

Investors were encouraged by signs that a deal could be reached between Greece and its lenders. The nation's new prime minister voiced confidence Monday that a compromise can be reached at high-stakes meetings in coming days.

Greece's stocks and bonds

with its conditions of strict austerity, a "toxic fantasy." "There's a growing sense that the two sides in the negotiations may be moving toward some compromise," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial.

Energy stocks took a hit on Tuesday after the International Energy Agency said that the recent rebound in oil prices "will be comparatively limited in scope." An-

Oil dropped more than 5 percent, erasing three days of gains. Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$2.84 to close at \$50.02 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$1.91 to close at \$56.43 in London.

Among individual stocks, Coca-Cola was one of the day's winners after reporting a better-than-expected quarterly profit. □

## Specialty drugs help CVS meet its 4Q forecast

**TOM MURPHY**  
AP Business Writer

CVS Health's fourth-quarter earnings climbed more than 4 percent in a performance that matched Wall Street expectations even though the pharmacy chain's decision to quit tobacco sales delivered an anticipated blow to its drugstore business.

The Woonsocket, Rhode Island, company said Tuesday that growing demand for expensive specialty drugs helped increase revenue from its pharmacy benefits management, or PBM, business nearly 22 percent in the quarter to \$23.9 billion. That easily countered a 7.2 percent drop in revenue from the front end of its established drugstores, or the area outside the pharmacy.

CVS Health runs the nation's second-largest drug-store chain, with 7,800 locations, and one of the biggest PBM operations. The company drew national attention last year with its decision to phase out tobacco sales from its stores, a move the chain completed by September, when it also changed its corporate name from CVS Caremark.

The company said last fall that the move would cut earnings by between 7 cents and 8 cents per share. □



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## Net Neutrality Rules



**JOE NOCERA**  
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In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Julius Genachowski, a trusted friend who had acted as candidate Obama's technology adviser, to be the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. They both firmly believed in the importance of net neutrality, in which Internet service providers, or ISPs, would not be able to give one website an advantage over another, or allow companies to pay to get into a "fast lane" ahead of competitors. That was the surest way to allow innovation to flourish, they believed. To Genachowski and his staff, creating net-neutrality protections meant reclassifying components of broadband Internet service from lightly regulated "information services" to more highly regulated "telecommunications services." This would subject ISPs like Comcast and Verizon to certain "common carrier" regulations under Title II of the 1934 Communications Act. But, according to The Wall Street Journal, Larry Summers, who was then Obama's director of the National Economic Council, blocked this effort, fearful of "overly heavy-handed approaches to net neutrality" that could be detrimental to the economy.

So instead, in December 2010, the FCC unveiled net-neutrality protections even while retaining the old "information services" classification. Many FCC staff members knew this was a riskier approach; after all, an earlier attempt by the agency to censure Comcast for violating net-neutrality principles had been vacated by the courts - on the grounds that the FCC lacked the proper authority. Sure enough, in January 2014, the court ruled that while the FCC had general authority to regulate Internet traffic, it couldn't impose tougher common-carrier regulation without labeling the service providers common carriers.

Is it any wonder that Tom Wheeler, who succeeded Genachowski as chairman of the FCC, announced this week that he was proposing to reclassify broadband Internet services as telecommunications services? What choice did Wheeler have? "Title II is just a tool to get enforceable rules to protect end users," said Michael Beckerman, president of the Internet Association, a trade group consisting of big Internet companies. Given the prior court decisions, that is really the only tool the government had left.

Is it truly necessary to have government-mandated rules to ensure net neutrality? Yes. One argument made by opponents of Title II classification is that we essentially have had net neutrality all along, so why does the government need to get involved? "There is no market for paid prioritization," said Berin Szoka, the president of TechFreedom, which vehemently opposes the reclassification.

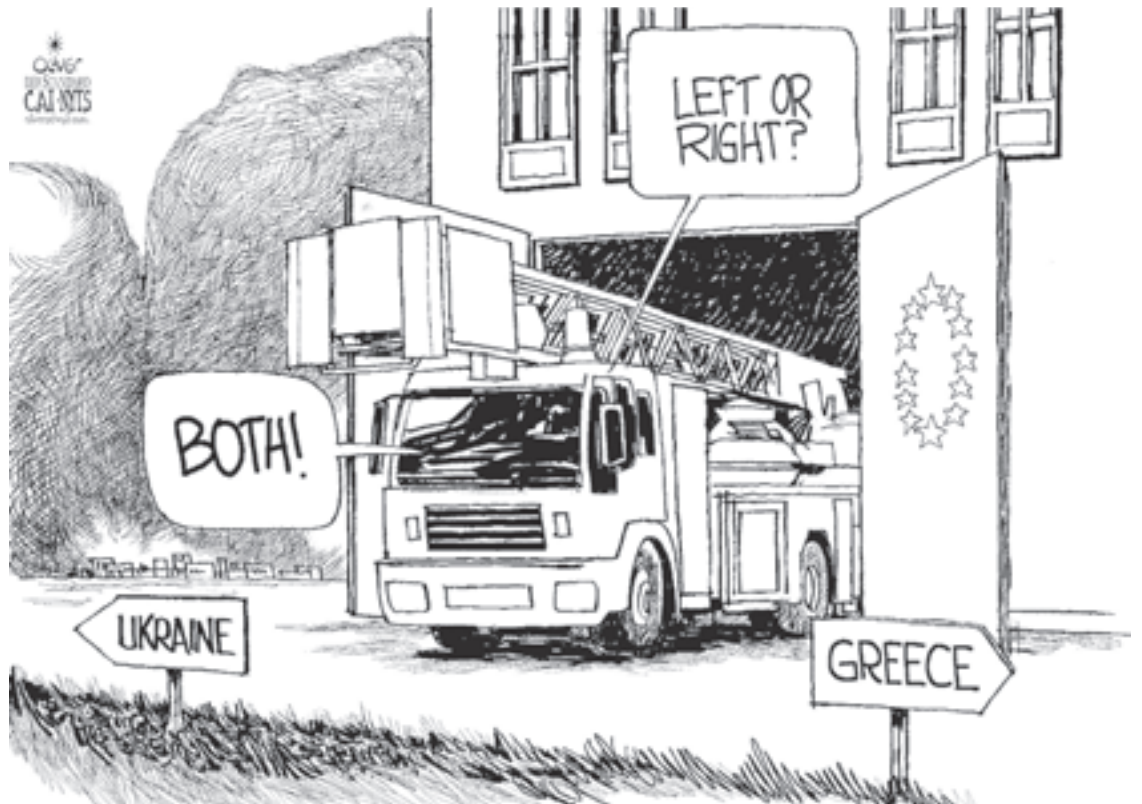
But this is not necessarily because of the workings of the market. For starters, the fastest broadband providers are mostly cable companies, which are quasi monopolies. As part of its deal in buying NBCUniversal, Comcast agreed to Genachowski's net neutrality rules until 2018, regardless of the eventual court decision. But who's to say what will happen after that? A good dose of competition might help, but other than Google Fiber - which only exists at this point in three cities - it is hard to see where that is going to come from. The way things are now, most people only have two options: their cable company or their phone company. That's not enough.

Indeed, a persuasive argument can be made that the previous attempts to create net-neutrality rules played an important role in preventing the broadband providers from, say, creating Internet fast lanes. After all, it took more than three years from the time Genachowski proposed the new net-neutrality rules to the time the court of appeals struck them down. Between those rules and the Comcast agreement, net neutrality was essentially government-mandated.

Another objection the broadband providers make is that the 1934 Communications Act is hardly the right vehicle to regulate the modern Internet. To allay these fears, Wheeler has said he would "forebear" those old regulations - such as price regulation - that don't make sense for our era. But, opponents argue, what is to prevent a future FCC chairman from imposing price regulation? Surely, though, the same can be asked of the broadband providers: What is to prevent them from someday violating net neutrality if there are no rules of the road? This strikes me as by far the more credible worry.

How to classify Internet services shouldn't even be a question, and it wasn't before 2002. That's when Michael Powell, who was then the FCC chairman - and is now the chief lobbyist for the cable industry - decided he wanted Internet services to be classified as an information service. He essentially commanded the FCC to come up with a rationale for doing so, said Barbara Cherry, a professor at Indiana University, Bloomington, and a former FCC staff member. What Wheeler is doing is not a radical step, she said. "They were classified as telecommunications services because they were telecommunications services."

"Classifying them as information services exclusively," she added, "was the real radical decision." □



## Obama the Theologian



**ROSS DOUTHAT**  
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President Barack Obama, like many well-read inhabitants of public life, is a professed admirer of Reinhold Niebuhr, the famous mid-20th-century Protestant theologian. And more than most presidents, he has tried to incorporate one of Niebuhr's insights into his public rhetoric: the idea that no society is innocent, and that Americans in particular need to put aside illusions about our own alleged perfection.

The latest instance came at last week's National Prayer Breakfast, when the president, while condemning the religious violence perpetrated by the Islamic State, urged Westerners not to "get on our high horse," because such violence is part of our own past, as well: "During the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ. In our home country, slavery and Jim Crow all too often was justified in the name of Christ."

These comments were not well received by the president's critics - as, indeed, his Niebuhrian forays rarely are. In the past, it's been neoconservatives taking exception when Obama goes abroad and talks about our Cold War-era sins. This time, it was conservative Christians complaining that the president was reaching back 500 or 1,000 years to play at moral equivalence with people butchering their way across the Middle East. From a Niebuhrian perspective, such complaints are to be expected. "All men," the theologian wrote, like to "obscure the

morally ambiguous element in their political cause by investing it with religious sanctity." Nobody likes to have those ambiguities brought to light; nobody likes to have the sanctity of his own cause or church or country undercut.

So the president probably regards his critics' griping as a sign that he's telling necessary truths. Indeed, sometimes he is. Certainly the sweeping Wilsonian rhetoric of George W. Bush cried out for a corrective, and Obama's disenchanted view of America's role in the world contains more wisdom than his Republican critics acknowledge. But the limits of his Niebuhrian style have also grown apparent. The first problem is that presidents are not historians or theologians, and in political rhetoric it's hard to escape from oversimplification. You can introduce the Crusades to complicate a lazy "Islam violent, Christianity peaceful" binary, but then a lot of Christians are going to hear an implied equivalence between the Islamic State's reign of terror and the incredibly complicated multicentury story of medieval Christendom's conflict with Islam ... and so all you've really done is put a pointless fight about Christian history on the table. To be persuasive, a reckoning with history's complexities has to actually reckon with them, and a tossed-off Godfrey of Bouillon reference just pits a new straw man against the one you think you're knocking down.

The second problem is that self-criticism doesn't necessarily serve the cause of foreign policy outreach quite as well as Obama once seemed to believe it would. Early in his administration, especially around his 2009 speech in Cairo, there was a sense that showing Muslims that a U.S. president understood their grievances would help expand our country's options in the Middle East. But no obvious foreign policy benefit emerged, and since then Obama's displays of

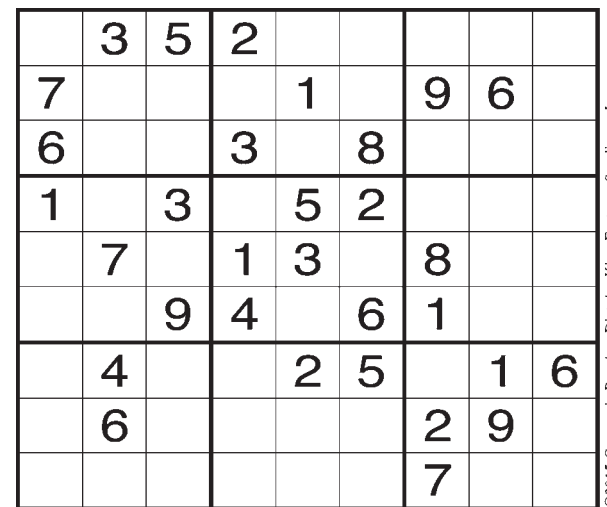
public angst over, say, drone strikes have mostly seemed like an exercise in self-justification, intended for an audience of one. (Meanwhile, our actual enemies can pocket his rhetorical concessions: The alleged relevance of the Crusades to modern politics, for instance, has long been one of al-Qaida's favorite tropes.)

A third problem is that Obama is not just a Niebuhrian; he's also a partisan and a progressive, which means that he, too, invests causes with sanctity, talks about history having "sides," and (like any politician) regards his opponents as much more imperfect and fallen than his own ideological camp. This can leave the impression that his public wrestling with history's tragic side is somewhat cynical, mostly highlighting crimes he doesn't feel particularly implicated in (how much theological guilt does our liberal Protestant president really feel about the Inquisition?) and the sins of groups he disagrees with anyway (Republican Cold Warriors, the religious right, white conservative Southerners).

Here a counterexample is useful: The most Niebuhrian presidential speech in modern U.S. history was probably Dwight Eisenhower's farewell address, in which he warned against the dangers of "the military-industrial complex" and "a scientific-technological elite." It was powerful precisely because Eisenhower was criticizing his own party's perennial temptations, acknowledging some of his own policies' potential downsides (he had just created NASA and DARPA) and drawing on moral authority forged by his own military career. Obama was never going to have Ike's authority, but he could still profit from his example. The deep problem with his Niebuhrian style isn't that it's too disenchanted or insufficiently pro-American. It's that too often it offers "self"-criticism in which the president's own party and worldview slip away untouched. □



## Conceptis Sudoku

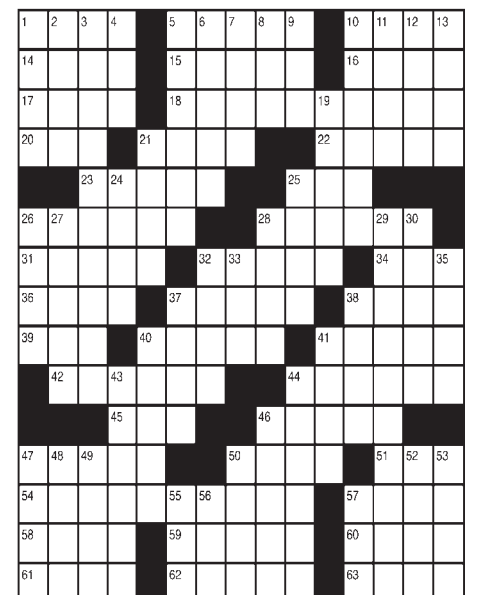


1/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	6	7	4	2	9	1	3	8	5
	8	1	3	5	7	4	9	6	2
	2	5	9	6	3	8	7	4	1
	9	3	7	8	5	2	6	1	4
	5	4	2	3	1	6	8	7	9
	1	8	6	7	4	9	5	2	3
	7	9	1	4	6	3	2	5	8
	4	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	7
	3	2	5	1	8	7	4	9	6

- 1 Wines & dines
- 5 Thin piece of leather
- 10 Snatch
- 14 Sixty minutes
- 15 Clear the slate
- 16 Actor's part
- 17 \_\_\_ for; selects
- 18 Sailor's beacon
- 20 Burro
- 21 Escape
- 22 \_\_\_ the blue; seemingly from nowhere
- 23 Stubborn animals
- 25 Declare illegal
- 26 Slip-on shoe
- 28 Singer Lightfoot
- 31 Bow and \_\_\_; Cupid's props
- 32 \_\_\_ with; beg
- 34 Doggy doc
- 36 Dyers' tubs
- 37 \_\_\_ the town



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/7/15

WANNA SEE ME MAKE THIS TENNIS BALL DISAPPEAR, MR. B.?

SURE, ELMO... I LOVE MAGIC TRICKS

OKAY, BUT I CAN'T DO IT IF YOU KEEP STARING AT ME LIKE THAT

1-7

MARGARET

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## A black and white cartoon by Mike Peters. On the left, a small, round, beetle-like character with a backpack and a flower tag on its back stands next to a fire hydrant. A speech bubble from the character on the right says, "RALPH, I THINK YOU'RE BECOMING TOO DOMESTICATED." The character on the right is a larger, more complex creature with a large, round, bulbous nose and a speech bubble. The signature "MIKE PETERS" is in the bottom left corner.

HI ZOE. THIS IS DEREK.

OH MY GOSH! I MEAN, HI.

I THINK YOU ARE THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN SCHOOL.

REALLY?

AND I WANT TO KISS YOU, AND EVEN MARRY YOU.

HOW INTERESTING...

WILL YOU ALSO VISIT MY BROTHER IN THE HOSPITAL?

MAYBE I SHOULD CALL YOU BACK.

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MIDMAN & SLOTT

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SCOTT ADAMS  
BORGARDT

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
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THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
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THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

IN THE FUTURE,  
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RESTROOM BEFORE  
CLASS, MR. DUNCAN.

WALL PAPER

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O	F	F	A		S	T	A	R	T		G	A	G	A
N	U	T	S		H	O	M	E	Y			D	A	Y

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1/7/15

1 "\_\_\_, Nellie!"  
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3 Got the better  
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4 Twelfth-  
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41 Unhapp  
43 Made s  
44 Horse's  
46 Measuri  
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47 Annoys

48 Hockey score  
49 Guitar of old  
50 \_\_\_-out; shabby  
52 Yellowstone  
National \_\_\_  
53 Therefore  
55 Skinny \_\_\_ rail  
56 Pupil carrier  
57 " \_\_\_ Lazy River"



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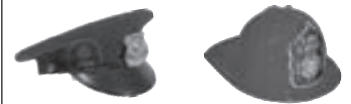
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24/7

## Study: Cats, foxes behind Australia's alarming extinctions

**KRISTEN GELINEAU**

**Associated Press**

**SYDNEY (AP)** — Australia has always been unique, from its geographical isolation at the bottom of the Earth to its infamous bevy of venomous creatures. Now, scientists have uncovered another unique — and disturbing — facet of Australian life: the country's mammals are going extinct at an alarmingly high rate, due in large part to a couple of critters with voracious appetites.

A study published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on Monday shows that more than 10 percent of the land mammal species endemic to Australia have been wiped out since European settlement. The main culprit? Cats and foxes brought to the continent by those settlers.

Australia's extraordinary extinction rate has long been a source of puzzlement. In the rest of the world, the extinction of various species is generally blamed on humans who have overhunted the animals or destroyed their habitat. But in sparsely populated Australia, much of the vast, desert interior remains virtually untouched by people. By global standards, it should be a paradisaical safe-haven for animals.

A group of Australian scientists set out to pinpoint the scope of the extinction problem and its cause by tracking the fate of all the country's land and marine mammals since the first European settlers arrived in Australia in 1788.

The researchers found that 11 percent of the 273 land mammal species endemic to Australia have gone extinct since European settlement and another 21 percent are considered threatened. By comparison, just one North American native land mammal became extinct since European settlement — the sea mink, which was overhunted. Worldwide, around 1.5 percent of 5,500 mammal species are extinct.

The researchers found that much of the Australian species' decline coincided with the introduction of two animals: the feral cat, which sailors brought to Australia on ships to keep the on-board rat populations at bay, and red foxes, brought to the continent for hunting.

As it turned out, both species hunted a little too well. And they spread rapidly.

"We knew it was bad, but I think our tallies were much worse than previously thought," said one of the study's authors, John Woinarski of Australia's Charles Darwin University. "The fact that we're losing such a large proportion of our species is a problem of international importance." The scientists noted that seven species that were once widespread on the Australian mainland now live naturally only on islands that the cats and foxes have yet to colonize. They also discovered that unlike the rest of the

ties, which live on top of cane stalks. The toads produce a highly toxic venom from glands in their skin that can kill would-be predators, and millions of them now threaten local species across the country. In the Australian study, the researchers blamed the cane toad for the population decline of the northern quoll, a carnivorous marsupial that preys on the amphibians.

"You'd think Australia, with its relatively extensive area, with its relatively low population and relatively affluent society should be able to do conservation well," Woinarski said. "But that's not the case."

from cats and foxes.

Stuart Pimm, a Duke University biologist and global expert in present-day extinctions, said the study was both very comprehensive and very important because it finally nails down the scope of Australia's extinction problem and the reasons behind it. "Other than just the sheer awful news that Australia has lost so many of its species is the fact that it's done it across areas that are very, very sparsely populated," Pimm said. "It tells us that by being careless, particularly with invasive species, that we can do an extraordinary amount of environmental harm even in places



**In this undated photo provided by the Department of the Environment, a feral cat catches and eats a crimson rosella bird at an unknown location in Australia.**

**Associated Press**

world, where larger mammals are at the highest risk of extinction, the Australian mammals being killed off are small — perfectly "meal-sized" for their predators.

Australia has a long and troubled history with introduced species. The most notorious is the cane toad, which was imported to the country's north in 1935 in a bid to control beetles on sugarcane plantations. The trouble was, the toads couldn't jump high enough to eat the bee-

A separate culprit the scientists identified behind the mammals' extinction rate is the changing way the nation's fierce wildfires are managed. In years past, indigenous Australians regularly set small fires, which burned away dry brush that is perfect tinder for wildfires. But that practice is less common today. That means wildfires tend to ignite more often and spread more widely, resulting in a loss of the mammals' food sources and hiding places that protect them

where there aren't a lot of people." Australia's experience, he said, should serve as a warning to everyone.

"There are parts of the world where invasive species have gone amok, and that tells us we need to be very careful not to bring in any more to do any more harm," he said.

"We need to be better stewards so that we can share these wonderful animals with our children and grandchildren." □





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## 'Selma' director hurt by star David Oyelowo's Oscar snub



Director Ava DuVernay during the press conference for the film *Selma* at the 2015 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015.

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — "Selma" director Ava DuVernay says she's disappointed that star David Oyelowo's performance as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wasn't recognized with an Oscar nod.

"I was hurt by the fact that David wasn't nominated because I know what it took to get that performance," DuVernay said at

the film's premiere in Berlin, adding, "I don't need anyone to tell me that it's one of the best performances of 2014; no one needs to even say that to me because I already know." Besides best picture, "Selma" is also nominated in the original song category for "Glory," By Common and John Legend. "It's a song that is going to

be in the culture for quite a while," DuVernay said. "Already choirs and students and people are singing this song and it's becoming a protest that I think will last." She said she was not expecting a best-director bid from the film academy. "There has been no precedent for a black woman to be nominated for best director, so why was it go-

ing to change with me?" she said. Yet the director said she feels honored the film is a contender for the top Oscar. "We were nominated as best picture, which is nothing to sneeze at," she said. "People act like we dragged out of there with nothing. I mean, best picture." □

## Jolie opens academic center studying women in conflict

**LONDON (AP)** — Angelina Jolie has opened an academic center billed as Britain's first to focus on women, peace and security.

The Hollywood actress hopes the center at the London School of Economics will help boost the global campaign for women's rights. She said Tuesday "there is no stable future for a world in which crimes committed against women go unpunished."

The university says the center will study the participation of women in conflict and on ending impunity for rape and sexual violence in war.

Jolie, a U.N. special envoy, co-founded a campaign on preventing sexual violence with former British Foreign Secretary William Hague in 2012. □

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## Sony and Marvel team up for the future of Spider-Man

**LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Sony and Marvel/Disney are finally bringing Spider-Man and the Avengers back together.

The studios announced a deal late Monday night in which the next installment of Sony's \$4 billion Spider-Man franchise will be co-produced by Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige along with Sony's Amy Pascal for a July 28, 2017, release. But first, Spidey will appear in an unspecified Marvel film.

According to the release, other characters from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, such as Iron Man, Thor and Captain America, may also be integrated into future Spider-Man movies. Though the characters have interacted in Marvel's comic books for decades, they've been segregated in the movies because of various licensing agreements that predated the explosion of superhero movies.

"Amy (Pascal) has been deeply involved in the realization on film of one of the world's most beloved characters. Marvel's involvement will hopefully deliver the creative continuity

and authenticity that fans demand from the MCU," Feige said in a statement.

Pascal, in the wake of the Sony hack, recently announced her transition from co-chair of Sony Pictures Entertainment to the head of a new production venture at the studio.

The Spider-Man pact is a significant partnership between rival studios Disney, who owns Marvel, and Sony, who holds rights to the Marvel-created Spider-Man character. Sony has launched two franchises on Spider-Man's back, with Sam Raimi's three films starring Tobey Maguire, followed by Marc Webb's reboot with Andrew Garfield for two films.

Meanwhile 20th Century Fox retains rights to the X-Men and the Fantastic Four. Though those characters are just as important as Spider-Man in the comics, they'll remain separate in the movies — for now, at least.

Rumors of a partnership between Disney and Sony over Spider-Man have been circulating for months.

"This is the right decision for the franchise, for our business, for Marvel, and for the fans," said Sony Chairman



In this Nov. 11, 2004, file photo, a man looks at an advertisement for the "Spider-Man" movie in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Associated Press

Michael Lynton.

"Spider-Man is one of Marvel's great characters, beloved around the world. We're thrilled to work with Sony Pictures to bring the

iconic web-slinger into the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which opens up fantastic new opportunities for storytelling and franchise building," Walt Disney Studios

Chairman and CEO Bob Iger said in a statement. Marvel's meticulously calibrated schedule has also been altered by the new partnership. □

## Court revives copyright lawsuit against singer Frankie Valli

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — A federal appeals court on Tuesday revived a copyright lawsuit against Frankie Valli and fellow "Four Seasons" band member Robert Gaudio over "Jersey Boys," the popular musical about the band. Donna Corbello sued Valli and Gaudio in 2011 for copy-

right infringement, claiming the musical was based in part on an unpublished autobiography of "Four Seasons" band member Thomas DeVito that her late husband ghost-wrote. She said she deserved to share in the profits from the musical's success. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Ap-

peals overturned a lower court ruling in favor of Valli and Gaudio and sent the case back down for further proceedings.

The court said there was contradictory evidence about whether Valli and Gaudio executed an agreement with DeVito to produce the play in time to



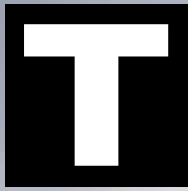
In this May 2, 2008, file photo, singer Frankie Valli performs at the 15th annual Race to Erase event in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

avoid termination of their ownership rights.

Daniel Mayeda, an attorney for Valli and Gaudio, said he was disappointed in the ruling, but he had not yet decided whether he would appeal. Corbello is also suing DeVito. The 9th Circuit ruled that DeVito had transferred his copyright in the autobiography to Valli and Gaudio, and therefore had to account to Corbello for any profits he obtained from it. □





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